

compensation, and small business loans. We are the faces of government—caseworkers, nurses, administrators, law enforcement officers. Day to day, our jobs are rarely front page news. We are on the front line and behind the scenes, working hard to resolve problems and make systems more effective.

Yet during this one week of the year, we hope to let people know how we touch their lives. We'd like the media to highlight the successes: thousands of tax refunds processed on time, hundreds of packages delivered the night before Christmas, dozens of checks issued for crop assistance after a spring flood, thousands of affordable housing units for the elderly and disabled, and upkeep of a hiking trail from one end of the state to the other providing unparalleled vistas.

Federal employees tout years of experience and commitment, investing themselves to bring about positive change. Continuously striving to be more efficient, more effective and more customer-service oriented, public servants care, and know government has a role to empower citizens to make life better. Federal employees contribute to our one-of-a-kind democracy. I rise to salute Vermont's federal employees . . . you truly make a difference.●

"IT'S MY FIGHT, TOO"

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to women, men, and their families who are fighting the scourge of breast cancer. As many of my colleagues may remember, last Spring, I submitted S. Res. 85, with my fellow Senator from New Hampshire, recognizing the family and friends of breast cancer patients in the struggle to cope with this disease. The Senate passed my Resolution by unanimous consent and expressed their overwhelming support for individuals who provide strength and support for loved ones fighting breast cancer. I come to the floor today to again note the importance of this expression and to recognize a very important organization in my home state of New Hampshire that is spreading this message to breast cancer patients across the country.

The American Cancer Society estimates that in 1998, 178,700 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed among women in the United States and 1,600 cases will be diagnosed among men. These numbers more than triple in size when you consider the family and friends who are also impacted by the disease. With each and every one of these cases comes family and friends who are looked upon to provide the caring and loving needed to overcome such a terrifying disease.

The Northeast Health Care Quality Foundation, in Dover, New Hampshire, has done an excellent job of expressing this notion to the people of New Hampshire and beyond. With their campaign titled, "It's My Fight, Too," the Foun-

ation has let individuals afflicted with breast cancer know that they are not alone in their struggle. It is important for the family to understand that their feelings are shared by others in their same situation and that they should find strength in numbers.

Awareness campaigns like "It's My Fight Too," are extremely important to foster an environment where support for both the individual with breast cancer and their family and friends is encouraged. Awareness is the key to allowing people to understand and identify with those suffering around them. We can all, as community members, provide support and strength to those in need.

As Mother's Day approaches, the Northeast Health Care Quality Foundation will be holding their annual event to recognize the important women in our lives who may or may not be suffering from this disease but who never the less, need to know that breast cancer is not just a women's disease but a struggle that can be fought by all of us together. Their event, "Family and Friends Against Breast Cancer, It's My Fight Too, A Night of Hope, Song and Love" will bring people from across the Northeast together to express the same support the Senate expressed with the passage of S. Res. 85. I commend the efforts of the Northeast Health Care Quality Foundation and encourage organizations across the country to follow their leadership and example.●

WORKER MEMORIAL DAY

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise to remember the American workers who have suffered injuries or died while at the work places in my home state of Minnesota and across the country.

As my colleagues may know, since 1989 the unions of the AFL-CIO have recognized April 28 as "Worker Memorial Day" to commemorate the millions of workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths that occur each year. In addition, many unions throughout the world now mark April 28 as an "International Day of Mourning."

In Minnesota, AFL-CIO affiliates commemorated Worker Memorial Day with a wide variety of events around the state. This past Tuesday at noon, members of Minneapolis and St. Paul building trades met near the State Capitol in St. Paul to remember workers who have been killed or injured in the job. A bell tolled once for each local construction worker who died in the past year of job-related causes.

In Grand Forks, the Northern Valley Labor Council and the Grand Forks Building and Construction Trades Council placed Workers Memorial Day stickers on their clothing at work. Statewide, a "Minnesota's Workforce Minute" Message about Workers' Memorial Day aired several times over the 29 stations of Minnesota News Network's Lifestyle Network.

Lastly, the Minnesota Department of Transportation and local unions in the

Twin Cities and St. Cloud participated in a number of Worker Memorial Day activities including the broadcast of a Workers Memorial Day message from the Metro Division Engineer over the MnDOT Public address and radio communication systems. This message preceded the observance of a moment of silence at 2 p.m.

Mr. President, this year also marks the 28th anniversary of the enactment of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. In 1970, President Nixon signed legislation which created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to establish and enforce labor standards and the National Institute for Occupational Safety Health (NIOSH) to conduct research investigations.

At the Department of Labor bill signing, President Nixon underscored the goal of this historic legislation. President Nixon noted how the bill's enactment, ". . . Represents in its culmination the American system at its best: Democrats, Republicans, the House, the Senate, the White House, business, labor, all cooperating in a common goal—the saving of lives, the avoiding of injuries, making the places of work for 55 million Americans safer and more pleasant places."

Mr. President, the goal of the Occupational Safety and Health Act is to prevent injuries, illnesses, and fatalities in the workplace. Through statistics provided by the Department of Labor it appears as though the intent of this Act has achieved some level of success. Unfortunately, these numbers are still too high.

According to Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were over 6,000 workplace fatalities in 1996, the lowest level in five years. There were 6.2 million workplace injuries or illnesses among private sector firms with more than 11 or more employees, about 400,000 fewer than in 1995. In my home state alone, 92 Minnesotans lost their lives, and 138,000 suffered injuries or illnesses on the job in 1996.

I have always supported employers and employees in their effort to create safe and healthy work places without cumbersome federal regulations. Workers are a business' most valuable asset and they deserve safe and healthy work places that will enable them to better perform their jobs. Safe working environments, achieved by restoring common sense and cooperation among workers, job providers and the federal government, result in smart business.

I strongly believe we need to continue to promote better safety and public health standards. One way this can be accomplished is through comprehensive reform of the Federal regulatory process. For this reason, I am proud to be a cosponsor of S. 981, the "Regulatory Improvement Act of 1997" sponsored by Senator CARL LEVIN, one of the leading health, safety and environmental experts in the Senate.

In my view, legislation such as the Regulatory Improvement Act of 1997

will ensure a more open and accountable regulatory process which will improve our health, safety and environmental protections while reducing the regulatory burden on those subject to those laws. It will not compromise health or safety protections. I recently wrote the Majority Leader urging that this legislation receive consideration on the Senate floor, and I am hopeful that we will have a debate on how to best ensure safe and healthy work places in the coming weeks.

On each Workers Memorial Day, I urge my colleagues to remember those American workers who have lost their lives or were injured on the job. Congress, the Administration, labor and business, must work together as they did nearly 30 years ago, to ensure that there are adequate protections to prevent unnecessary injuries and fatalities in the future and improve the lives of all of our nation's workers.●

TRIBUTE TO THE FLOYD COUNTY EMERGENCY AND RESCUE SQUAD: THIRTY YEARS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE IN EASTERN KENTUCKY

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of the Floyd County Emergency and Rescue Squad. Thirty years ago this week, this squad of volunteers was formed to help the people of Eastern Kentucky in times of emergency and disaster, and have been doing so ever since.

The Floyd County Emergency and Rescue Squad was founded in April, 1958, as a result of a tragic accident in Prestonsburg, Kentucky, in which a school bus plunged into the Big Sandy River, killing 26 students and the driver. As a result of this tragedy, dozens of community members came together to form the Squad and the late Graham Burchett became the first Captain, a position he held for twenty years.

Since that time, over 300 community members have served on the Squad—doctors and lawyers, coal miners and factory workers—people from all walks of life have worked side-by-side in volunteer service to their community. The Squad operates without any public support. The members are all volunteers and all their equipment is paid for through private donations and grants.

The Squad currently maintains a roster of thirty active members and dozens of reserve members. The Squad is called on for auto extrication, water rescue and drowning recovery, lost or missing persons, and assistance to coal mine rescue teams. In the last month alone, they have assisted in the evacuation of flood victims, recovered a drowning victim and have assisted on four auto accidents.

Despite the fact that the Squad must labor mightily for every dollar they get, they have managed to secure ultra-modern equipment, and are called frequently to assist in recovery activities outside the county and even outside the state.

Mr. President, I hope all my colleagues will join me in offering our congratulations to Captain Harry Adams, Co-Captain Richie Schoolcraft, Treasurer and Secretary Brian Sexton, First Lieutenant Derek Calhoun and Second Lieutenant Lee Schoolcraft and all the volunteers of the Floyd County Rescue Squad. They carry on the Squad's rich tradition of volunteering their time and risking their lives to help the people of their community, and they are all worthy of our admiration and thanks.●

PROTOCOLS TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY OF 1949 ON THE ACCESSION OF POLAND, HUNGARY, AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC

(The text of resolution of ratification to the Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic as agreed to by the Senate on April 30, 1998, reads as follows:)

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

SECTION 1. SENATE ADVICE AND CONSENT SUBJECT TO DECLARATIONS AND CONDITIONS.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic (as defined in section 4(7)), which were opened for signature at Brussels on December 16, 1997, and signed on behalf of the United States of America and other parties to the North Atlantic Treaty, subject to the declarations of section 2 and the conditions of section 3.

SEC. 2. DECLARATIONS.

The advice and consent of the Senate to ratification of the Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic is subject to the following declarations:

(1) REAFFIRMATION THAT UNITED STATES MEMBERSHIP IN NATO REMAINS A VITAL NATIONAL SECURITY INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES.—The Senate declares that—

(A) for nearly 50 years the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has served as the preeminent organization to defend the territory of the countries in the North Atlantic area against all external threats;

(B) through common action, the established democracies of North America and Europe that were joined in NATO persevered and prevailed in the task of ensuring the survival of democratic government in Europe and North America throughout the Cold War;

(C) NATO enhances the security of the United States by embedding European states in a process of cooperative security planning, by preventing the destabilizing renationalization of European military policies, and by ensuring an ongoing and direct leadership role for the United States in European security affairs;

(D) the responsibility and financial burden of defending the democracies of Europe and North America can be more equitably shared through an alliance in which specific obligations and force goals are met by its members;

(E) the security and prosperity of the United States is enhanced by NATO's collective defense against aggression that may threaten the territory of NATO members; and

(F) United States membership in NATO remains a vital national security interest of the United States.

(2) STRATEGIC RATIONALE FOR NATO ENLARGEMENT.—The Senate finds that—

(A) notwithstanding the collapse of communism in most of Europe and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the United States and its NATO allies face threats to their stability and territorial integrity, including those common threats described in section 3(1)(A)(v);

(B) the invasion of Poland, Hungary, or the Czech Republic, or their destabilization arising from external subversion, would threaten the stability of Europe and jeopardize vital United States national security interests;

(C) Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, having established democratic governments and having demonstrated a willingness to meet all requirements of membership, including those necessary to contribute to the territorial defense of all NATO members, are in a position to further the principles of the North Atlantic Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area; and

(D) extending NATO membership to Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic will strengthen NATO, enhance security and stability in Central Europe, deter potential aggressors, and thereby advance the interests of the United States and its NATO allies.

(3) SUPREMACY OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL IN NATO DECISION-MAKING.—The Senate understands that—

(A) as the North Atlantic Council is the supreme decision-making body of NATO, the North Atlantic Council will not subject its decisions to review, challenge, or veto by any forum affiliated with NATO, including the Permanent Joint Council or the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, or by any non-member state participating in any such forum;

(B) the North Atlantic Council does not require the consent of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, or any other international organization in order to take any action pursuant to the North Atlantic Treaty in defense of the North Atlantic area, including the deployment, operation, or stationing of forces; and

(C) the North Atlantic Council has direct responsibility for matters relating to the basic policies of NATO, including development of the Strategic Concept of NATO (as defined in section 3(1)(F)), and a consensus position of the North Atlantic Council will precede any negotiation between NATO and non-NATO members that affects NATO's relationship with non-NATO members participating in fora such as the Permanent Joint Council.

(4) FULL MEMBERSHIP FOR NEW NATO MEMBERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Senate understands that Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, in becoming NATO members, will have all the rights, obligations, responsibilities, and protections that are afforded to all other NATO members.

(B) POLITICAL COMMITMENTS.—The Senate endorses the political commitments made by NATO to the Russian Federation in the NATO-Russia Founding Act, which are not legally binding and do not in any way preclude any future decisions by the North Atlantic Council to preserve the security of NATO members.

(5) NATO-RUSSIA RELATIONSHIP. The Senate finds that it is in the interest of the United States for NATO to develop a new and constructive relationship with the Russian Federation as the Russian Federation pursues democratization, market reforms, and peaceful relations with its neighbors.

(6) THE IMPORTANCE OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION.—